

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1230

By Faulkner

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Kenny Chesney of Union County for his contributions to the world of country music.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich musical heritage; from the hills of East Tennessee through Music City U.S.A. to the shores of the Mississippi in Memphis, the talented musicians of this State have earned a reputation that is unsurpassed in the history of American music; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the history and contributions of Union County and is grateful for the positive impact the county has on the State's musical heritage; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding Union County musician who has become a permanent fixture in American music is Kenny Chesney; and

WHEREAS, born on March 26, 1969 in Knoxville, Kenneth Arnold Chesney grew up listening to both country and rock & roll in the small town of Luttrell, also the home of music legend Chet Atkins; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chesney taught himself to play the guitar while attending East Tennessee State University, where he performed with the college bluegrass band and played for tips at local venues every night he could; and

WHEREAS, after graduating in 1991 with a Bachelor's degree in Advertising, Kenny Chesney moved to Nashville with only a dream and an acoustic guitar; and

WHEREAS, as the resident performer at the Turf, a rough honky tonk in Music City's historic Lower Broadway district, Mr. Chesney honed his skills and perfected his craft, eventually scoring a publishing deal with Acuff-Rose; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Kenny Chesney released his debut album, *In My Wildest Dreams*, on the independent Capricorn Records label and earned the attention of several major labels; and

WHEREAS, eventually signing with RCA subsidiary BNA, Mr. Chesney went on to achieve his dream of country music stardom while compiling an impressive and indelible discography; and

WHEREAS, Kenny Chesney has recorded eleven albums that have been certified gold or higher, including *When the Sun Goes Down*; *No Shirt, No Shoes, No Problem*; and *Greatest Hits*, each of which went quadruple platinum and have inched close to the 5,000,000 mark; and

WHEREAS, he has produced more than thirty top ten singles on the U.S. *Billboard* Hot Country Songs Charts, seventeen of which reached number one, including fan-favorites, “You Had Me From Hello,” “How Forever Feels,” and “Living in Fast Forward;” and

WHEREAS, possessing the rare ability to connect with fans on a personal level with his likeable, average-guy persona, Mr. Chesney is also one of the most popular touring acts in country music, regularly selling out every venue, and his 2007 Flip-Flop Summer Tour was the highest-grossing country tour of the year; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors or accolades, Kenny Chesney has amassed a plethora of awards, including ten Academy of Country Music (ACM) Awards, six Country Music Association (CMA) Awards, and six Country Music Television (CMT) Awards; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chesney is one of the most popular and esteemed figures in country music, and his singing and songwriting talents have garnered him the admiration of country music fans throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Kenny Chesney epitomizes creative spirit and commitment to this State’s cultural heritage, and he truly serves as an exemplary Ambassador for Union County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Kenny Chesney upon his legendary

career in country music, thank him for all he has done to continue and add to the musical heritage of this State, and wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.